

Applicant : The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York

Serial No.: PCT/US98/09447

Filed : 8 May 1998

For : REDUCED SIZE MULTIMODE INTERFERENCE
BASED COUPLER

REPLY TO WRITTEN OPINION

VIA FACSIMILE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
BOX PCT
Washington DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with PCT Rules 66.3, 66.8 and 66.9, applicant submits this reply to the Written Opinion dated 30 March, 2000 in the above-referenced application.

Amendment

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to better distinguish the prior art by specifying that the claimed couplers are self-imaging. Substitute pages 15 and 17 reflecting the amended claims are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added.

Remarks

The International Examiner has opined that each of claims 1-17 of the present application lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,362,357 to Stockmann et al. Specifically, the Examiner has opined that the device in Stockmann et al. is so similar to what applicants claim that all the applicants' claimed limitations are "inherently" met by Stockmann et al.'s device. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the